

IN HONOR OF JACK KURLANDER  
AND HIS LIFE OF SERVICE TO  
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Jack Kurlander, who spent a lifetime turning Sussex County, New Jersey into a destination for tourists and recreation-seekers. His vision truly transformed this picturesque region of the Garden State.

Born in Rhode Island and raised in Nutley, New Jersey, Jack Kurlander had been New Jersey's boys tennis champ while at Nutley High School. But, his love of sports extended to golf and skiing, as well. Spurred by his love of outdoor sports and recreation, Jack Kurlander set about turning this quiet Highlands region into a popular destination for a variety of outdoor sporting activities.

Jack Kurlander and his business partners, first the Fitzgerald Family and later the Mulvihill Family, were the force behind the development of ski resorts, tennis and swim clubs, picnic grounds, spa resorts, and major golf courses over the course of four decades. The Ballyowen Golf Course, in fact, is the top-rated public golf course in New Jersey.

Long before his vision took hold, Jack Kurlander was an avid inventor. He manufactured the first nylon tennis nets with his friend John Fitzgerald in the basement of a Nutley bakery. He created a ski-waxing machine, using his mother's disassembled washing machine to develop his invention.

This evening, outdoor enthusiasts will join together to dedicate the Memorial Garden at the 7th Hole of the Black Bear Golf Course and to pay tribute to their friend and patron. Jack suffered a heart attack in 1977, but it barely slowed him down from his mission to transform this beautiful region. Nearly thirty years later, a heart attack took his life in 2006 at the age of 76. It is said that Jack Kurlander was able to see things that were unapparent to anyone else. His gift for vision and his love of life are truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST  
CLASS THOMAS R. WILSON

### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, last month we marked the sixth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks against America. The terrorists responsible carefully selected their targets; the World Trade Center standing for America's success, and the Pentagon for America's strong defense. These extremists sought to bring down the greatest democracy in the history of the world. They thought we were weak—or unprepared to defend our freedom. They were wrong. The terrorists soon discovered America is not comprised of buildings; America is made up of her people. We are strong. We stand together against those who seek to destroy us.

And so it is with great sorrow but immense pride that I recognize one of my own constitu-

ents who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Private First Class (PFC) Thomas R. Wilson, United States Army, was killed on August 27, 2007, while proudly serving his country in Afghanistan as part of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

PFC Wilson, who was only 21 years old at the time of his death, grew up in Maurertown located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He was a typical all-American boy. He loved being outdoors enjoying nature. His hobbies included hunting, fishing and hiking and he possessed a great love of art and photography. He was an active member of the 4-H and local chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). In high school PFC Wilson excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field. He was a member of the National Honor Society in addition to playing on Central High School's basketball and track teams. In 2004, he graduated from high school, where he is remembered by teachers and friends as "a student leader at all times."

After graduation, PFC Wilson went on to West Virginia University where he completed two years before joining the U.S. Army. Upon his completion of boot camp and airborne school, PFC Wilson was sent to Camp Ederly, in Vicenza, Italy and from there was deployed to Afghanistan.

PFC Wilson was a proud soldier. In e-mails he sent home from the war zone, he shared his commitment to the mission and his pride in the U.S. Army. According to his commanding officer, PFC Wilson's fearless actions on the day of his death saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. PFC Wilson has been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Purple Heart for these noble actions.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Julie Hepner, PFC Wilson's mother, and his siblings, Chloe, Chelsea and Ethan. Not only did Tom answer the call of his country and in doing so protect the freedoms that we so cherish, but he also paid a dear price to bring freedom to people he had never met. He gave his life in order to make our Nation stronger and safer for future generations.

In 1962, speaking to a gathering of cadets at West Point General Douglas MacArthur delivered stirring remarks in which he described the "American man at arms." He said, "His name and fame are the birthright of every American citizen. In his youth and strength, his love and loyalty, he gave all that mortality can give. He needs no eulogy from me, or from any other man."

In an age when the word 'hero' is tossed around casually to describe everything from sports stars to singers in bands, PFC Thomas R. Wilson is a hero in the truest sense of the word—a possessor of courage and strength who pursued feats of noble purpose.

HONORING LAVENIA "BEANS"  
VANDIVER, A TRUE TEXAS  
ORIGINAL

### HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Texas original, Lavenia

"Beans" Vandiver who recently passed away. Born and raised in Moody, Texas, Beans was an inspiration and true friend to many, including a young state senator running for Congress in 1990. Beans stayed true to her Central Texas roots attending Moody schools and later attended Mary Hardin Baylor University. A devoted wife to her husband of 50 years Bert Vandiver Sr. and a loving mother to her children and grandchildren, Beans Vandiver was the best America and Texas has to offer, a vibrant force of nature that will be dearly missed.

As a businesswoman, Beans was the hard-working driving force behind several successful local businesses and real estate endeavors. Some of her proudest moments were helping young couples to realize a dream of owning their first home. Because of her success, Beans proved to be ahead of her time setting a positive example for others while shattering the glass ceiling for women in the business world.

As her beloved daughter Karen Vandiver-King also reminded us, Beans was a generous person who cared for the less fortunate and dedicated herself to giving back to the community.

Madam Speaker, today's world needs more people like Beans Vandiver and I join those who mourn her loss but celebrate the many lasting contributions and joys of her wonderful life.

I thank God for the life of Lavenia "Beans" Vandiver and ask his blessings for her family.

STATEMENT INTRODUCING AMERICAN FREEDOM AGENDA ACT OF 2007

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a comprehensive piece of legislation to restore the American Constitution and to restore the liberties that have been sadly eroded over the past several years.

This legislation seeks to restore the checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution by our Founding Fathers to prevent abuse of Americans by their government. This proposed legislation would repeal the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and re-establish the traditional practice that military commissions may be used to try war crimes in places of active hostility where a rapid trial is necessary to preserve evidence or prevent chaos.

The legislation clarifies that no information shall be admitted as evidence if it is obtained from the defendant through the use of torture or coercion. It codifies the FISA process as the means by which foreign intelligence may be obtained and it gives members of the Senate and the House of Representatives standing in court to challenge presidential signing statements that declares the president's intent to disregard certain aspects of a law passed in the U.S. Congress. It prohibits kidnapping and extraordinary rendition of prisoners to foreign countries on the president's unilateral determination that the suspect is an enemy combatant. It defends the first amendment by clarifying that journalists are not to be prevented from publishing information received from the